

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH FORUMS

### BISHOP – June 28, 2005

#### Community Development

##### Bishop (Eastern)

- Big Pine chamber and civic club are interested in grants-Bill Wright is contact
- Independence/county wide: historical preservation, county leases many of these buildings from DWP
- ID Native American archeological and cultural resources
- Resources for location and planning for airport. Positives: increased business, recreation and tourism. Negatives: communities' ability to deal with infrastructure, noise, pollution
- Workforce / affordable housing resources: planning, grants, and tech assistance needed
- Will SNC funding be equally divided among the regions?
- We need more project examples from other conservancies
- Ecological and environmental education in local schools for kids and adults, opportunities for eco-tourism
- Foster opportunities for a SN outdoor laboratory, link 4 year colleges to local education opportunities
- Source of funding for supporting new working farms, ranches and forests. Need for expansion of land ownership and housing
- "Hometown" competitive strategy: community foundation, entrepreneurship, youth involvement, leadership
- Resources for the county to participate in an inter-agency land tenure group
- Alternative energy promotion: solar, wind, geothermal
- Capacity building for community development orgs
- Process for easements on DWP lands, can SNC work here?
- Continuing education on what SNC can do for community development
- Discussion of easement process should include: community well-being, recreation, access, alternative transportation, open space
- Better medical care facilities for residents and visitors
- Emergency care up to leading standards
- Ability to treat locally rather than travel out of area
- SNC must be mindful that local zoning is compatible with landscape
- PR for ecotourism

#### Health & Well Being

##### Bishop (Eastern)

- Focus on the cultural and archeological resources of Owens Valley
- Support for rail trails but no money, problem is #of jurisdictions so maybe SNC would help w/ permits, easements
- Rebuild narrow gauge railroad --bring Independence and Laws efforts together and draw tourism
- Private in-holdings on BLM land. Can SNC assist with land exchange to address in-holdings
- Vacant agricultural fields that contribute PM-10 around Bishop, can SNC help address?
- Open air hospice
- Create sacred space teaching center for healing and teaching -- taking advantage of what already goes on-culturally specific native and non-native
- Nature and neuro-immunology classes and space
- Urban wildlife interface, fuels reduction-coordinate with fire disasters, fire-safe councils, volunteer fire departments
- Support local fire-safe councils and collaborate with existing partners to accomplish goals
- Support new fire-safe councils in areas that need them

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### Health & Well Being (Cont)

- Maintenance of existing historic buildings that counties and other jurisdictions can't afford to do, also help get on historic register
- Need research to identify and publish history and culture of agrarian societies (Paiute) into local education systems, base on Paiute traditions not post -euro
- SNC should be at the top of Conservancy funding list
- Need to dispel the distrust and misinformation
- Support regional health care, emergency care for residents and visitors
- Protect critical habitats, migration corridors
- Areas are not getting watered because leasees have lost water rights to DWP, so can't grow crops
- This whole valley was in production in 1920's, DWP bought up and now there are lots of dry areas
- Protection of existing mining areas and access to them
- Connection between fire, air and water quality-focus on fuels reduction to minimize fires that affect air and water quality. Allow for economic benefit so people can do the fuels work-private enterprise with appropriate controls
- Protect culturally significant areas and sacred sites for tribes in the valley and for benefit of everyone
- Starlight-community that want to subdivide but has no water. County issued a neg declaration but project plans to double # of houses which will impact water supply for current residents-SNC should help local government so \$\$\$ isn't the sole driving force.

### Property Rights

#### Bishop (Eastern)

- Why are the tribes not represented on the SNC board? How can they be given a seat
- It is insulting that the Resources agency mistakenly labels the Cascade Mountain Range as part of the Sierra-this will be very confusing to our children learning geography
- How does land ownership by SNC work with "no net loss of private land" in the Inyo G.P.
- Can the SNC fund legal actions against DWP?
- How will local resource conservation districts be involved?
- Does the SNC's purpose as a project funding source overlap with the regions RC&D's
- "Working landscapes" need to be defined by local people and tribes because it might be very different from urban perspectives

### Technical Assistance

#### Bishop (Eastern)

- Chambers / non-profits need TA for development of restrooms, kiosks, visitor info centers
- Facilitation for group processes
- Environmental education
- Visitor education center
- Planning grants
- Community water systems-- build and clean
- Provide notes from board meetings to all local libraries
- Need base line studies and assessments for resources, historical, archeological and natural

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### Tourism & Recreation

#### Bishop (Eastern)

- Implementation of rail trail
- Public transportation -- connect the things that people are coming here for, connect recreational amenities
- Balance recreation and resources, can't open everything when there is no baseline data on usage
- Collect baseline data
- Create biking and pedestrian trails in the Owens Valley
- More public campgrounds
- Provide business assistance to small recreation providers
- More trail projects
- Eco-tourism opportunities: wildlife viewing, native flora and fauna restoration, education, and public outreach
- Culturally specific educational kiosks
- Bike trails
- Federal Agency cooperation
- Recognition of motorized recreation
- Train tracks into trails
- More public amenities
- Historic train restoration using existing facilities
- Create more tribal tourism opportunities: campgrounds, museums, historical sites, RV parks
- Keep pack trains open
- Keep hatcheries open and operational
- Multi-lingual educational and interpretive signs
- Create 2nd home ownership zones, so they don't compete for resources with existing stock
- Open old mines 4 tourism, Union Carbide Tungsten Mine
- More historical preservation
- Motorized Recreation: preservation of ecosystem through education and peer enforcement versus closures
- Keep hot springs undeveloped
- More put in and take-out facilities for boating
- Recognition of sustainable motorized uses through education, collaboration, enforcement, and compromise
- SNC should go to top of Conservancy funding list
- Pay to play for better access points
- Rectify mining pollution and remediation
- Create an OHV trail stewards program
- Consolidate in-holdings

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Susanville (Northern)

- Protection and maintenance for resources
- Westwood visitor center was built but no operational money
- Acquisition of conservation easement shouldn't necessarily include public access
- Would like a funding source for conservation easements
- Surprise Valley visitor center in planning process, help educate about working landscapes, but no \$\$\$
- Play a role to facilitate bringing multiple landowners together to discuss and resolve and then implement to create healthy landscapes and fuel reduction
- Need an approach for limiting liability expense for land trusts which take on sites with possible environmental hazards.

Sonora (South-Central)

- Maintaining viable agriculture industry as an objective acquisition criteria
- Support outreach efforts of local land trusts to inform property owners of options available to

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them to protect AG land and open space and make sure they function effectively

#### Fresno (Southern)

- Potential funding for research and monitoring on private land (range) Oak Woodland Preservation Techniques. (Tulare County)
- Funding for demonstration projects
- Can Sierra Nevada Conservancy hold public / private easement? Will land be limited?
- Joint public / private partnerships (Cooperative)
- Water Right high priority
- Conservation easements are not a violation of property rights, willing donors, or sellers
- Can Conservancy provide and to non-profits or public agencies for Land Purchases? Yes!
- Is the Sierra Nevada Conservancy more interested in utilizing non-profits for holding conservation easements versus Sierra Nevada Conservancy holding CE ownership
- Can the Sierra Nevada Conservancy influence/ facilitate/ encourage (including funding) Bureau of Land Management and Kern County Sheriff department to address trespass and public encroachments from BLM lands onto abutting private land
- 11 million dollars being used to study off-road vehicles. Wants money used for better purpose
- Promote/ fund environmental education programs for young people
- Kern River Valley ground water concerns
- Can the SNC fund restoration of degraded watershed and areas of environmental importance or sensitivity on private and BLM lands? (especially where caused by public use and access)
- Promote historical and community cultural support versus commercialism (big macs)
- Can SNC help maintain viability of ranches and what will be the SNC's role, if any in helping to protect private grazing rights on BLM versus VSFS land? What about private logging rights on Federal land?

#### El Dorado (Central)

- Public outreach to private owners to teach them about BMP's for their land
- Would SNC have management plans for any lands it has an interest in?
- Acquire conservation easements for habitat protection and open space preservation
- Want clarification on how SNC proposed to consult with local governments on proposed projects (wording on #3 in "can-do" list in unclear)
- Want more program projects that encourage minimization of subdivision of land
- Have a program for private property owners to voluntarily have cultural/historical resources of their property documented and included in a database of such resources
- Help property owner and local governments become aware of locations of veins of naturally occurring asbestos
- Want to know if SNC can hold easements- want clarification
- Definitely don't want SNC funding any condemnation proceedings by local entities
- Emphasis on maintaining private property wherever possible and with voluntary, incentive-based programs to keep properties economically viable
- Concerned about SNC being involved in properties being taken off tax rolls, and how to compensate counties for such loss
- Can SNC lease development rights (not in perpetuity- maybe 20-25 year lease) as a way to maintain working landscapes and keep property in tax base? Can help mitigate development pressures. Grazing one specific concern
- Need to balance increased financial burdens of rural residential development against current tax revenues from pre-development state
- Utilize state assets (CYA, CCC) on private property for fuel/ fire hazard reduction

#### Quincy (North-Central)

- Land purchased by SNC must be maintained, including bugs, overgrown, etc.

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- Maintenance agreements are strongly recommended
- Inventory of biological diversity on public and private land
- Need to prioritize conservation efforts
- Need overall land planning
- Need to restore east-side flyway (down to Tulare basin) restore the network of lakes, marshes and seasonal wetlands, need a viable network
- SNC should help organize the above inventory by bringing together professionals from federal state and other public agencies
- SNC should take guidance from well-informed local experts and specialists
- Need mechanisms for holding private land-owners accountable to protect areas that have been restored on private lands
- Want major support for local business in SNC area, especially small business support
- Want help with local general plans
- SNC should work with local agricultural interests to set up agricultural preservation easements
- DO NOT forget SNEP

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